NCA
VOC FOR PGM/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5968 JULY 7, 1978
BY MARK HOPKINS/BERLIN

U.S. PRESIDENTS IN BERLIN
(VOICED VERSION WITH INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER WILL VISIT BERLIN ON SATURDAY, JULY FIFTEENTH. HE WILL BE THE FOURTH AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT THAT CITY -- STILL A MEASURE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. VOA'S MARK HOPKINS HAS A REPORT FROM BERLIN.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- KENNEDY

"THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND, OR SAY THEY DON'T, WHAT IS THE GREAT ISSUE BETWEEN THE FREE WORLD AND THE COMMUNIST WORLD. LET THEM COME TO BERLIN." (CHEERS, APPLAUSE. FADE UNDER FOLLOWING):

VOICE:

IT WAS JUNE TWENTY-SIXTH, NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE -- FIFTEEN YEARS AGO -- WHEN PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY VISITED WEST BERLIN.

SIX YEARS LATER, ANOTHER AMERICAN PRESIDENT -- RICHARD MR. NIXON -- TRAVELLED THERE TO TALK WITH BERLINERS....

TAPE: CUT TWO -- NIXON

"SOMETIMES YOU MUST FEEL THAT YOU ARE VERY MUCH ALONE, BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER WE ARE WITH YOU."

VOICE:

IT HAS BEEN NEARLY TEN YEARS SINCE AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS BEEN IN BERLIN. THE FIRST WAS HARRY S. TRUMAN WHO FLEW TO THE WAR-DEVASTED GERMAN CAPITAL IN JULY NINETEEN FORTY-FIVE FOR THE POTSDAM CONFERENCE WITH JOSEF STALIN AND WITH BRITISH LEADERS -- FIRST WINSTON CHURCHILL, THEN CLEMENT ATLEE.

BERLIN WAS NOT YET THE DIVIDED CITY. VICTORIOUS ALLIES MET IN POTSDAM ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BERLIN TO DECIDE POSTWAR EUROPE. THE COLD WAR AND THE BERLIN WALL WERE STILL IN THE FUTURE.

PRESIDENT NIXON WAS ON A EUROPEAN TRIP EARLY IN NINETEEN SIXTY-NINE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH, WEST GERMAN AND NATO LEADERS. HE FLEW TO BERLIN ON FEBRUARY TWENTY-SEVEN, TO REAFFIRM AMERICA'S COMMITTMENT TO A FREE BERLIN.

SIX THOUSAND BERLIN FACTORY WORKERS SHOUTED "NIXON - OKAY ...NIXON-OKAY" AS HE TOLD THEM:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- NIXON

"AND ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE FREE AND WHO WANT TO BE FREE AROUND THE WORLD ARE WITH YOU. IN THE SENSE THAT THE PEOPLE OF BERLIN STAND FOR FREEDOM AND PEACE, ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ARE TRULY BERLINERS." (APPLAUSE, CHEERS. FADE UNDER FOLLOWING):

VOICE: PRESIDENT NIXON IN BERLIN.

IT WAS PROBABLY PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S VISIT TO WEST BERLIN, IN 1963, HOWEVER, THAT REMAINS THE MOST DRAMATIC OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL TRIPS. THE BERLIN CRISIS OF NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE WAS STILL FRESH HISTORY. THE BERLIN WALL WAS JUST TWO YEARS OLD. THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS THAT BROUGHT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION TO THE BRINK OF WAR WAS BUT A FEW MONTHS PAST.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY TOURED THE FAMOUS "CHECKPOINT CHARLIE", THE CONTROL POINT FOR THE BERLIN WALL IN THE AMERICAN SECTOR, AND THEN ADDRESSED ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND BERLINERS FROM SCHOENBERGER RATHAUS, THE WEST BERLIN CITY HALL.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- KENNEDY

"WHILE THE WALL IS THE MOST OBVIOUS AND VIVID DEMONSTRATION OF THE FAILURES OF THE COMMUNIST SYSTEM FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE, WE TAKE NO SATISFACTION IN IT. FOR IT IS, AS YOUR MAYOR HAS SAID, AN OFFENSE NOT ONLY AGAINST HISTORY, BUT AN OFFENSE AGAINST HUMANITY..."

VOICE:

AMIDST THE GROWING CHEERS OF BERLINERS, AND THE THEN WEST BERLIN MAYOR, WILLY BRANDT, PRESIDENT KENNEDY RESTATED AMERICA'S BELIEF IN FREEDOM AND BERLIN.

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- KENNEDY

"FREEDOM IS INDIVISIBLE, AND WHEN ONE MAN IS ENSLAVED, ALL ARE NOT FREE (APPLAUSE). ALL FREE MEN, WHEREVER THEY MAY LIVE, ARE CITIZENS OF BERLIN. AND THEREFORE AS A FREE MAN, I TAKE PRIDE IN THE WORDS...ICH BIN EIN BERLINER" (APPLAUSE FADE UNDER FOLLOWING):

VOICE:

ICH BIN EIN BERLINER...I AM A BERLINER, PRESIDENT KENNEDY SAID FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, AS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF BERLINERS HEARING AMERICA'S WORDS OF FREEDOM ROARED THEIR APPROVAL.

GH/PY